

Stories from the Archives Hope in the 1850's

2. The Market Place.

Hope first held a market in 1715 when John Balguy of Hope Hall procured a licence for a weekly market and four fairs. However it seems to have had fluctuating fortunes and was "long discontinued" only being revived in 1843. In 1855 it became a monthly cattle market and each year on May 13th a hiring fair was held when those seeking employment would stand in the market place with the sign of their trade.



The Market Place would have looked rather different in those days. There would have been open fields to the north with views of Win Hill. There were houses standing at the edge of the current churchyard and down what is now School Lane. These later disappeared as the churchyard was enlarged, but their remains can be seen in the church car park.

The first house on the left, Dagers House, was the home of the Greaves family. One of the oldest houses in the village it was at one time the "Old Stone Dagers Inn". Its heyday as an inn occurred when the new turnpike road brought coaches and carts through the village between Sheffield and Manchester but by the 1840s it had ceased to be an inn and was owned by the Greaves family. In 1851 it was lived in by William Greaves, described as a "landed proprietor". He was an elderly widower with an unmarried son and daughter living with him and a granddaughter of school age. The son's trade was that of a druggist but whether he worked locally is not recorded. William and his daughter owned five fields between them in Hope which would hardly justify them calling themselves landed proprietors, but maybe they held land elsewhere.

Robert Unwin and his wife Mary and their young family of four lived next door. Their house is also old with a vaulted cellar, a cool place to hang up bacon and other food for the grocer's shop they ran. Many of the old buildings in the centre of the village had similar cellars. There was a barn attached to the property, still distinguishable as part of Loxley Hall. Robert was also a corn dealer and farmer. He ran a carrier service to and from Sheffield on Tuesdays and Saturdays. All these different occupations would help him to provide for his family.

Ann Price

1851 Census 1847 Tythe map